

A B I L L

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide gold star lapel buttons for the next of kin of members of the armed forces who lost or lose their lives in war or as a result of cold war incidents.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
2 United States of America in Congress assembled, That chapter 57 of
3 title 10, United States Code, is amended ---

4 (1) by adding the following new section at the end thereof:

5 "1124. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution

6 "(a) A lapel button, to be known as the gold star lapel
7 button, shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of
8 Defense, to identify widows, parents, and next of kin of members
9 of the Armed Forces of the United States --

10 "(1) who lost their lives during World War I,
11 World War II, or during any subsequent period of
12 armed hostilities in which the United States was en-
13 gaged before July 1, 1958; or

14 "(2) who lost or lose their lives after June 30,
15 1958 --

16 "(i) while engaged in an action against
17 an enemy of the United States;

18 "(ii) while engaged in military operations
19 involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

20 "(iii) while serving with friendly foreign forces
21 engaged in an armed conflict in which the United

2 "(b) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of
3 Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall
4 furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to the widow and to
5 each parent of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any
6 circumstance prescribed in subsection (a). Gold star lapel buttons
7 shall be furnished, upon application and payment of an amount suf-
8 ficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution, to the
9 next of kin other than the widow and parents of any such deceased
10 member.

11 "(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished
12 to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button fur-
13 nished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered
14 unfit for use without fault of neglect on the part of the person to
15 whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application
16 and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture
17 and distribution.

18 "(d) In this section --

19 "(1) 'widow' includes widower;

20 "(2) 'parents' includes mother, father, stepmother,
21 stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adop-
22 tion, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis;

23 "(3) 'next of kin' includes only children, brothers,
24 sisters, half brothers, and half sisters;

25 "(4) 'children' includes stepchildren and children
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2 "(5) 'World War I' includes the period from April 6, 1917, to
3 March 3, 1921; and

4 "(6) 'World War II' includes the period from September 8,
5 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon."; and

6 (2) by adding the following new item at the end of the analysis:

7 "1124. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution."

8 Sec. 2. The Act of August 1, 1947 (61 Stat. 710), as amended (36

9 U.S.C. 182a - 182d), is repealed.